

August Friday Email Blast

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Friday, August 5, 2016

Directors,

It is my great pleasure to inform you that Dr. Zephine Smith-Dixon has been promoted to the role of State Director for Special Education at the Georgia Department of Education. Monday, August 1, 2016, marked her 10 year anniversary at the Department. Those of you who have had the opportunity to work with Zephine appreciate the talent and vision she brings to this position. She is a skilled collaborator and at every opportunity shares the belief that all students are entitled to an education providing access and equity. In this role, she will continue to bring a high level of professionalism and expertise to the ongoing work of the Division. Please send her your congratulations.

Debbie Gay,

Deputy Superintendent of Federal Programs

Data Collections:

Attached is the Due Dates Calendar for all data submission and reports due during the 2016-2107 school year (FY17). The items listed in red are the 10 items that impact Indicator 20 of the SPP/APR – Timely Submission. If you have questions, please contact Carol Seay at cseay@doe.k12.ga.us.

GNETS FAQ:

Attached, you will find two GNETS FAQ documents that were shared with local GNETS Directors. If you have procedural questions specific to the facility closings, then contact Nakeba Rahming, GNETS Director at Nrahming@doe.k12.ga.us or by phone at 404-640-6536.

Consolidated Application Required Uploads:

Local districts were asked to upload the Student Success Plans in the Consolidated Application no later than July 29th. The Division is currently working to review those plans in the Con App.

In addition to this requirement, districts identified as having significant disproportionality, must upload “approved” Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS) plans to the Consolidated Application. Upon approval of the CEIS plan, your District Liaison will send you an approval email. It is suggested that the district upload the final document in the Consolidated Application after the approval email. If the district has a Corrective Action Plan (CAP), then the approved CAP should be uploaded, as well.

Collaborative Communities:

The State is excited about the 2016-17 school year and look forward to supporting each of you. As we move into Year 2 of implementing the Student Success Process, it is critical that local special education directors participate in a Collaborative Community. GLRS and District Liaisons have worked diligently to offer professional development/technical assistance that will support you in this process. Many of you have provided invaluable survey feedback for 2015-16 Collaborative Communities in which we will be able to share those results soon.

OSERS issues Behavioral Supports DCL addressing the needs of students with disabilities:

U. S. Department of Education released a “Dear Colleague” letter, dated August 1, 2016, that will provide guidance to support students with disabilities who have behavioral needs. Please review the attachment for additional information.

The Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium regarding professional learning opportunities to support transition to inclusive postsecondary programs:



Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Consortium

Educator Seminar

An opportunity to learn, plan, and share about

How to Prepare Students and Plan for Inclusive Postsecondary Education Programs

by Theresa Davis, Ed.S & Susanna Miller-Raines

September 22, 2016

10:00am-2:00pm

9:30am Registration

East Georgia State College

Sudie A. Fulford Community Learning Center

131 College Circle

Swainsboro, GA 30401

Or

September 29, 2016

10:00am-2:00pm

9:30am Registration

Georgia State University

Indian Creek Lodge

900 S Indian Creek Drive

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

September 22 Registration: http://gaipseceducatorseminar9_22_16.eventbrite.com

September 29 Registration: http://gaipsecatlantaseminar9_29_16.eventbrite.com

Registration Fee - \$10 - lunch included for all who register

For more information contact Susanna Miller-Raines at smiller65@gsu.edu or 404-413-1013

2016 PARENT MENTOR KICKOFF CONFERENCE:

The 2016 Annual Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kick-Off Conference “*Building Bridges to Bright Futures*” will be held September 14-26, 2016 at the Coastal Georgia Center. All parent mentors are required to attend along with the special education director or other district representative. Tips for registering, a draft agenda and a list of hotels are attached.

Conference Registration Link: [Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2016](#)

The Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program (GATTAP):

The Georgia Autism and Technical Assistance Program (GATTAP) is back by popular demand – with a location near you! GATTAP provides teachers of students with autism and intellectual disabilities the opportunity to network with job-alike peers, to share successful classroom strategies, and to brainstorm solutions to difficult situations. Fall topics focus on **Comprehensive Program Planning for Individuals with ASD** (also applicable for students with intellectual disabilities) and **Video Modeling**. The focus of Winter sessions includes use of **Antecedent-Based Interventions** and **Reinforcement**. For each session participants are required to complete a designated internet module in advance of the meeting and bring the post-test as the ticket in the door, actively participate in the session, implement a new strategy upon return to the classroom, and submit a reflection on how the strategy worked. Upon completion of the tasks, participants will earn a 10 seat-hour certificate. A total of 40 seat hours are possible with full participation in each session!

Please share the attached GATTAP 2016-2017 information with appropriate teachers and related support staff!!

Attachment title that was included with the August 5 Email Blast.

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|---|---|
|  FY17 Special Education Due Dates.pdf (337 KB) |  Building Bridges to Brighter Futures.pdf (301 KB) |
|  2016 GaPMP Kickoff Hotel List Updated 7.28.16.docx (832 KB) |  Tips for Registering.pdf (275 KB) |
|  GATTAP 2016-2017 c.docx (21 KB) |  GNETS Facilities FAQ_1.pdf (504 KB) |
|  GNETS FAQ_2.pdf (273 KB) |  dcl-on-pbis-in-ieps--08-01-2016.pdf (496 KB) |

Friday, August 12, 2016

Directors,

As Debbie shared in the email blast on last Friday, I have been promoted to State Director for the Division. I am excited for the opportunity to continue such great work and look forward to working with each of you.

In light of many demands, we will host the first **Directors' Webinar** on **September 13th @ 10:00 am**. Typically, we don't host the webinars during the morning hours, but there are other scheduled trainings and conferences this week. During next week's email blast, we will share the annual webinar calendar with registration links, as well as, post the information on the website. Tentatively, we will host the first Directors' Forum around October. We appreciate your patience during this transition and hard work for Georgia's children.

Partnering in Student Success,
Zelphine Smith-Dixon

UDL Webinar Series:

During the 2016-2017 school year, a series of free webinars are available that will focus on various aspects of the instructional framework of Universal Design for Learning. The UDL Center at OCALI, in collaboration with the State Support Teams (Ohio), PATINS (Indiana), and the Georgia Department of Education will be hosting these webinars. The schedule for these webinars, along with descriptions and registration links, can be found in the attached PDF document "2016-17 Live UDL Webinar Series".

GATTAP 2016-2017:

GATTAP 2016-2017 begins September 15-16 at a location near you! Please invite teachers and therapists of students with autism and intellectual disabilities to participate in these **free** sessions. Participants will learn from web modules on research-based strategies, as well as, from the expertise and evidence-based practices of their peers. Please share the attached flier with appropriate teachers and related support staff! For questions contact Debbie Reagin at dregain@doe.k12.ga.us.

Georgia's Education Leadership Institute (just a month away):

We're coming down the home stretch toward the start of the [4th annual Georgia Education Leadership Institute](#), and we hope you're making plans to attend this impactful event. The Institute has become one of Georgia's leading annual forums to discuss and highlight education efforts in our great state.

The event is being held once again at the **Marriott Marquis** in **downtown Atlanta** from **September 7-9**. Some of this year's features are [below](#).

- **Governor Deal** talks about his education agenda on Thursday morning
- **Free Pre-Institute sessions** on Wednesday afternoon highlighting topics important to every school district in the state
- **Dr. John Hodge** will deliver an inspiring message of hope, perseverance and purpose at the keynote luncheon on Thursday
- **Networking reception** to be held on Thursday evening
- 50 informative **breakout sessions**
- Special **ESSA discussion panel** to conclude the Institute on Friday
- **Superintendent Panels** for small, medium and large districts featuring leading superintendents from around the state

- **Breakfast** provided on Thursday and Friday mornings
- **Opportunities to network** with your peer leaders from all over the state

We are thankful for our sponsors that have helped make this year's Institute possible, allowing us to keep the fee to attend a low \$125. Please click on their logos in the sponsors section of the Institute webpage to find out more about these great organizations! To learn more and to register today, please visit the Institute's webpage at: [2016 GELI](#)

Also, our **room block at the Marriott Marquis** still has some availability but is filling rapidly. The cutoff date for the low room rate of just **\$138 per night (plus taxes) is August 22nd**, so you'll want to act quickly if you plan to stay at the Marriott. You can go directly into the special reservation system the Marriott has setup for our block by clicking the link from the "Accommodations" section of the Institute webpage: [2016 GELI](#)

[Save the Date for Georgia Vision Educators Statewide Training \(GVEST\):](#)

Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs), O&M Specialists, and VI Paraprofessionals in Georgia will have a wonderful opportunity for professional learning during GVEST. GVEST is planned through a cooperative effort among the Georgia Academy for the Blind, the Georgia Sensory Assistance Project, and the GaDOE. The focus for this year's GVEST is on assessments and appropriate accommodations/assistive technology. GVEST will be held at Middle Georgia State University in Macon beginning Wednesday Oct. 12th through Friday Oct. 14th, 2016. Please share the attached flyer with your VI professionals. Registration is now open at www.GVEST.org. If you have questions, please contact Elaine Thagard: ethagard@doe.k12.ga.us

[2016 PARENT MENTOR KICKOFF CONFERENCE:](#)

The 2016 Annual Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kick-Off Conference "***Building Bridges to Bright Futures***" will be held September 14-16, 2016 at the Coastal Georgia Center. All parent mentors are required to attend along with the special education director or other district representatives. Tips for registering, a draft agenda and a list of hotels are attached.

Conference Registration Link:

[Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2016](#)

Attachment titles that were included with the August 12 Email Blast.

 2016-2017 Live UDL Webinar Schedule.pdf (393 KB)

 GATTAP 2016-2017 c.docx (21 KB)

 GVEST Registration Flyer Featured Presenters.docx (499 KB)

 2016 GaPMP Kickoff Hotel List Updated 7.28.16.docx (832 KB)

Friday, August 19, 2016

Directors,

We look forward to the first Directors' Webinar on Tuesday, September 13th in which the registration link is below. Your participation is critical as this will be a great opportunity to discuss strategies that will foster ongoing improvement. Please note the other items and have a great weekend.

Directors' Webinar

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1496863412126637058>

Partnering in Student Success,

Zelphine Smith-Dixon

GaDOE Back to School Newsletter (pdf copy attached):

Click here for the [Back to School GaDOE newsletter](#). This newsletter is intended primarily for parents and other stakeholders who may not receive other communications from the GaDOE. We encourage schools, districts, and organizations to print out copies to share, or distribute to their email lists.

Public invited to give feedback on Georgia's education plan:



Public invited to give feedback on Georgia's education plan

State leaders seek feedback on Every Student Succeeds Act plan; eight meetings to be held across Georgia

[One-page overview of ESSA topics](#)

August 18, 2016 – The Georgia Department of Education and State School Superintendent Richard Woods are urging anyone interested in the future of Georgia's public education system to attend one of eight public feedback sessions on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

ESSA is the replacement for the law commonly known as No Child Left Behind, and offers an enormous opportunity for Georgia's students, teachers, parents and communities because it replaces the top-down federal approach required by NCLB. The new law allows states and local schools/districts to make education decisions that are best for their students, and requires states to develop plans that address standards/assessments, school and district accountability, and special help for struggling schools and students.

“For all those invested in the future of Georgia's education system – and those interested in a more holistic approach for students – whether you're a parent, a student, an educator, or a community member, I strongly encourage you to offer your feedback as we develop our ESSA state plan,” Superintendent Woods said. “If you can, please attend a meeting – you'll invest two hours of your time in exchange for many years of education policy. If you're not able to attend in person, there will be opportunities to offer your feedback online and via email. Again, I urge you to join us as we shape the future of education in our state.”

Meeting Details

Each ESSA feedback session will include a welcome from Superintendent Woods and an introduction to the Every Student Succeeds Act. Participants will then choose specific topics to discuss in working groups. The public will also be informed of next steps and additional opportunities to provide feedback. Before attending the meeting, we encourage you to review this [one-page overview of ESSA topics](#). For those unable to attend an in-person meeting, a survey opportunity will soon be announced and posted at gadoe.org/ESSA. Feedback can also be emailed to essa@doe.k12.ga.us.

All meetings will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

August 24: Columbia County, Columbia County Board of Education, 4781 Hereford Farm Road, Evans, GA 30809

August 29: Habersham County, Piedmont College (Student Commons Building), 375 Georgia Street, Demorest, GA 30535

September 1: Dougherty County, Dougherty Comprehensive High School, 1800 Pearce Ave, Albany, GA 31705

September 14: Fulton County, North Learning Center, 450 Northridge Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30350

September 19: Muscogee County, Northside High School, 2002 American Way, Columbus, GA 31909

October 12: Laurens County, Old West Laurens (OWL) Training Center, 338 West Laurens School Road, Dublin, GA 31021

October 13: Chatham County, Pulaski Elementary School, 1001 Tibet Avenue, Savannah, GA 31419

October 17: Gordon County, Gordon County College & Career Academy, 305 Beamer Road, Calhoun, GA 30701

Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act and the development of Georgia's state plan at gadoe.org/ESSA. View a [one-page overview here](#).

GIMC Updates:

Thank you for all your support in returning books and materials to the GIMC before the close of school last spring. The students who subsequently need them rely on their timely return. There are, however, a number of books and materials that were neither renewed nor returned. The GIMC will be sending out notices to district teachers who have overdue materials in the near future. Please communicate to your staff about the importance of complying with the GIMC lending agreements.

Professional Learning for Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE):

The above attachment indicates Science and Social Studies GSE Professional Learning Schedules. Please note, there are online options for learning.

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Conference Registration Link: [Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership 2016](#)

GATTAP 2016-2017:

Only 4 weeks until GATTAP! Don't let your teachers or students with autism miss this **free** opportunity to network with job-alike peers! See attached GATTAP flyer!! For questions contact Debbie Reagin at dreagin@doe.k12.ga.us or (678) 697-2163.

Childhood Apraxia of Speech: An Intensive Training for the School-Based Therapist:



APRAXIA LEARNING EXPERIENCES INCLUDING WEBINARS, WORKSHOPS & SEMINARS

**Childhood Apraxia of Speech:
An Intensive Training for the
School-Based Therapist**



**October 20-22, 2016
Hilton Garden Inn University Place
3454 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213**

This 17 hour intensive, interactive training is designed specifically for school-based therapists who service children diagnosed with childhood apraxia of speech from preschool to high school. There are unique challenges that the school-based therapist faces when dealing with this complex motor speech disorder. Focus will be primarily therapy-based, with various methodology's highlighted and will include facilitation of parent home carryover strategies and support. Sessions will include video examples of children of all ages being treated by school based therapists to enhance learning and encourage group discussion. Practical therapy ideas that can be used on Monday morning will be shared. Additional topics will also include IEP writing, teacher collaboration, and management of concomitant diagnoses. Unique strategies for caseload management will also be discussed. State-of-the art technology approaches will be featured with research support described when applicable. The knowledge gained from this intensive learning experience will enable the school-based therapist to become a resource for others in the surrounding school communities.

This course is offered for 1.7 ASHA CEUs (Advanced level, Professional area)

Learn More!

Featured Speakers:

Dave Hammer, MA, CCC-SLP is the Director of Professional Development and Speech Services for the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA). Prior to this position, Dave had 35 years of pediatric clinical experience at Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, PA with specialty interests in childhood apraxia of speech and speech sound disorders. He has been invited to present over 150 workshops on childhood apraxia and speech sound disorders throughout the United States, Canada, and Australia. Dave was a member of the ASHA AdHoc committee on childhood apraxia of speech. Dave is known for his practical and therapy-rich presentations.



Disclosure Statement: Mr. Hammer receives compensation for his role with CASANA. Mr. Hammer receives ongoing compensation for his participation in the production of the CASANA DVD “Treatment Strategies for Childhood Apraxia of Speech.” Mr. Hammer also acts as the ASHA CE Consultant for CASANA. There are no other relevant financial or non-financial relationships to disclose.

Amy Krantz, MS, CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist who specializes in the treatment of speech-sound disorders and stuttering. She works primarily in the public schools in Salt Lake City, UT and manages her own private practice after school hours. She also is the clinical director for the University of Utah’s Intensive Stuttering Clinic. Ms. Krantz has taught Articulation and Phonology at the graduate level and co-lead the development of Primary Children’s assessment/treatment protocol for children with CAS. Amy is a 2012 graduate of the CASANA Intensive Training Institute.



Disclosure Statement: Ms. Krantz is a graduate of CASANA’s Intensive Training Institute on CAS. There are no other relevant financial or non-financial relationships to disclose. Anne Van Zelst Anne Van Zelst, MA, CCC-SLP, is an ASHA certified pediatric speech-language pathologist. She holds a M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from Temple University, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis from Penn State University, and will be beginning her Doctoral studies at Temple University starting the fall of 2016. She is a Certified Coach for the Competent Learner Model and a Certified TouchChat Trainer. Anne is Level II PROMPT trained and has also completed the alternative 8-week course in Neuro-Developmental Treatment. Anne is a 2012 graduate of the CASANA Intensive Training Institute.

Disclosure Statement: Ms. Van Zelst is a graduate of the CASANA Intensive Training Institute on CAS. There are no other relevant financial or non-financial relationships to disclose.

Anne Van Zelst, MA, CCC-SLP, is an ASHAcertified pediatric speech-language pathologist. She holds a M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology from Temple University, a Post-Graduate Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis from Penn State University, and will be beginning her Doctoral studies at Temple University starting the fall of 2016. She is a Certified Coach for the Competent Learner Model and a Certified TouchChat Trainer. Anne is Level II PROMPT trained and has also completed the alternative 8-week course in Neuro-Developmental Treatment. Anne is a 2012 graduate of the CASANA Intensive Training Institute.

Ms. Van Zelst is a graduate of the CASANA Intensive Training Institute on CAS. There are no other relevant financial or non-financial relationships to disclose.

[CASANA Webinar FAQs](#)

Attachment titles that were included with the August 19 Email Blast.

 Science and Social Studies GSE Professional Learning Schedule 8-17-16-.docx (196 KB)

 Tips for Registering.pdf (275 KB)

 2016 GaPMP Kickoff Hotel List Updated 7.28.16.docx (832 KB)

 Building Bridges to Brighter Futures.pdf (301 KB)

 GaDOE Updates Back to School 2016.pdf (504 KB)

 GATTAP 2016-2017 c.docx (21 KB)

Friday, August 26, 2016

Directors,

Changes in the assessment requirements for Georgia's students went into effect this spring when SB 364 was signed by Governor Nathan Deal. As a part of those changes, students in Grades 3 through 8 will take an end-of-grade assessment in English Language Arts and mathematics. However, students are assessed in science and social studies in Grades 5 and 8.

Students in Grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 will no longer take an end-of-grade assessment in science and social studies. High school students will take an end-of-course assessment for each of the eight courses designated by the State Board of Education. To assist with this process, you may opt to use similar verbiage, as shown below, to appropriately inform parents of the change and amend IEPs. Have a great weekend.

Partnering in Student Success, Zephine Smith-Dixon

SAMPLE VERBIAGE

Your child _____'s Individualized Education Program (IEP) contains science and social studies end-of-grade assessments that are no longer required. _____'s IEP will need to be amended to remove these assessments as a requirement. If you would like a formal IEP Team meeting to discuss this amendment, please notify _____ at +_____. However, if you agree to the removal of the science and social studies end-of-grade assessments from your child's IEP, please sign below and return this form to the school. You will receive a copy of the amended IEP no later than _____.

_____ I agree to the removal of the state science and social studies end-of-grade assessment from my child _____, IEP

Professional Development Opportunity:

Join us for this one-hour webinar on the new Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist Certification, hosted by AMAC at Georgia Tech and Georgia AER.

Date: Wednesday, September 14th

Time: 3:00pm to 4:00pm (ET)

Cost: \$25.00

Registration Link: https://catis_webinar.eventbrite.com

Are you considering advancing your career, or possibly embarking on a new career path that combines technology solutions with the assessment and training of individuals with vision loss? If so, then becoming a Certified Assistive Technology Instructional Specialist (CATIS) may be worth considering.

Presenter: Kathleen Zeider, President of ACVREP, will describe the CATIS certification process, including the following topics:

- Roles and Responsibilities of a CATIS
- Eligibility Requirements
- Overview of Certification and Recertification Process
- Why Employers Should Require CATIS Certification
- Questions and Answers Session at the end

ACVREP CEU's for COMS, CVRT and CLVT being offered

Assistive Technology:

Curious George Gets a Talker! Thanks to the Nieder family blog, Uncommon Sense, for the free downloadable PowerPoint book in which Curious George experiences communication challenges, gets a talker, learns to use it and has communication success! Feel free to share!

[Click here to download the free PowerPoint file!](#)

Georgia Alternate Assessment Pre-Administration Training:

The GAA pre-administration training webinars for 2016-2017 were presented live this week. The recordings and associated PowerPoint presentations are available on the GAA Webpage.

Links to each PowerPoint and recording can be accessed at: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/GAA-Presentations.aspx>

The five webinars include:

- Basics of the GAA: Session 1
- Looking Ahead to the 2016-2017 Administration: Session 2
- Overview of High School Mathematics in 2016-2017: Session 3
- Alignment: Session 4
- Questions and Answers: Session 5

Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year and the 15th year of the **Ga Parent Mentor Partnership!** Since 2002 we have grown from 5 pilot districts to 100 districts and over 100 parent mentors. Currently **Sabrina Gresham**, Fulton County Schools, is our longest serving parent mentor and one of the originals!

We are looking forward to being together to celebrate, as we do each year, our collective work as a statewide initiative. This year our conference theme is ***Building Bridges to Bright Futures***. This theme reflects the vision and mission of the GaPMP.

The **mission** - To build effective family, school and community partnerships (**bridges**) that lead to greater achievement for students, especially those with disabilities.

The **vision** - Parent mentors and special education administrators will lead the way in Georgia to **bridge** the gap between home, school and community.

The 2016 Annual Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Kick-Off Conference will be held September 14-16, 2016 at the Coastal Georgia Center. All parent mentors are required to attend along with the special education director or other district representative. Tips for registering and a list of hotels are attached.

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GATTAP:

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